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FEEDING SCHEDULE FOR RABBITS

Prepared in Section of Fur Resources, Division of
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Present knowledge regarding rabbit feeding indicates that a ration composed of 40 percent mixed concentrates and 60 percent alfalfa hay is suitable. A good daily maintenance ration for a mature doe or buck consists of 0.16 pound (2.56 ounces) of concentrates and 0.24 pound (3.84 ounces) of hay. For all rabbits other than does suckling young, the concentrated portion of the ration is fed in the morning and the hay in the evening. If a doe fails to kindle after being bred two or more times and is getting fat, the ration is reduced to 0.08 pound (1.28 ounces) of concentrates and 0.24 pound (3.84 ounces) of hay, or in special cases the concentrated portion of the ration for the doe may be entirely eliminated until she has been reduced to good breeding condition.

After a doe kindles, the concentrates are increased to 0.24 pound (3.84 ounces), half of which is fed in the morning and half in the evening, while the hay, all of which is fed in the evening, is increased to 0.36 pound (5.76 ounces). Increases are made twice weekly thereafter, the quantity depending upon the number of young in the litter and the appetite of the doe. A doe and her litter should receive all the feed they will readily consume. For example, a White New Zealand doe kindled on November 3, 1933, and received 0.24 pound of grain and 0.36 pound of hay from that date to November 14. Then the ration was increased as follows, there being 6 young in the litter:

Date	Grain		Hay	
	Ounces	Pounds	Ounces	Pounds
Nov. 14 ...	4.48	or 0.28	5.72	or 0.42
Nov. 17 ...	5.12	" .32	7.68	" .48
Nov. 21 ...	5.76	" .36	8.64	" .54
Nov. 24 ...	7.04	" .44 ^{1/}	10.56	" .66 ^{1/}
Nov. 28 ...	8.32	" .52	12.48	" .78
Dec. 1 ...	9.60	" .60	14.40	" .90
Dec. 5 ...	10.88	" .68	16.32	" 1.02
Dec. 8 ...	12.16	" .76	18.24	" 1.14
Dec. 12 ...	13.44	" .84	20.16	" 1.26
Dec. 15 ...	14.72	" .92	22.08	" 1.38
Dec. 19 ...	16.00	" 1.00	24.00	" 1.50
Dec. 22 ...	17.28	" 1.08	25.92	" 1.62
Dec. 26 ...	18.56	" 1.16	27.84	" 1.74

^{1/} Young out of nest box and eating, therefore larger increase.

The young of this doe were weaned on December 29, at 56 days of age. The 6 young weighed 22.4 pounds, or an average of 3.73 pounds, which is considered a good average weight for young rabbits of this breed.

